

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 35-48 and 56-65 remain pending in this application. Claims 49-55 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 60-65 have been added.

Priority

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

Interview

Applicants wish to thank Examiners LeRoux and Santos for conducting an interview on June 1, 2005. As stated in the comment portion of the Interview Summary, proposed claim amendment(s) to place the application in condition for allowance were discussed. Furthermore, it was stated that Applicant will respond formally. However, before Applicant could respond formally, the Examiner issued the outstanding Office Action.

Apparently, based upon Applicants' arguments the previous rejections were withdrawn. However, new rejections have been raised and some new references have been cited.

Applicants wish to further thank Examiner Leroux and his supervisor, Examiner Metjahic, for conducting an interview on September 9, 2005. Agreement was reached in that interview and the following includes the substance of what was discussed. The claims have been amended as discussed in the interview for purposes of clarity. However, Applicants maintain that the previously pending claims are patentable over the cited art as agreed to in the interview summary.

SPECIFICATION OBJECTION

The specification is objected to for allegedly not particularly describing block I/O and file I/O such that the invention can be clearly understood. Applicant submits that such terminology is well-known in the art and does not need to be further defined in the specification. In fact, there is adequate support for such terminology in the present specification (namely, in publication no. 2002/0178143 A1, paragraphs [0158] - [0161] discussing embodiment 3, paragraphs [0130] - [0140] of embodiment 2, referenced in embodiment 3, and paragraphs [0088] - [0100] of embodiment 1, as referenced in embodiment 2). Nonetheless, Applicant agrees with the common dictionary definition relied upon by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 35, 40-42, 47-49 and 54-59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Yamamoto (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0152339). These rejections are traversed as follows.

Yamamoto does not disclose a physical input/output port being accessible by a block I/O request having a first port number via an IP network and a file I/O request having a second port number via the IP network. Furthermore, Yamamoto does not disclose a control unit that performs a first operation corresponding to the first port number for storing data in a first volume corresponding to the block I/O request, and performs a second operation, corresponding to the second port number, for storing data in the second volume corresponding to the file I/O request. Therefore, the rejection of the claims as being anticipated by Yamamoto should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 35, 40, 42, 47, 49, 54 and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kazar et al (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0112022) in view of Amundsen et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,825,435) and further in view of Aasland (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0138693). Claims 36-39, 43-46, 50-53, 57 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kazar et al, Amundsen et al and Aasland and further in view of Abraham et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,983,270). Claims 41, 48 and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kazar et al, Amundsen et al and Aasland and further in view of Bridge (U.S. Patent No. 6,880,102) (claim 59 is also listed, but is not mentioned in the substance of the rejection). Finally, claim 59 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Kazar et al,

Amundsen et al and Aasland and further in view of Starr et al. These rejections are traversed as follows.

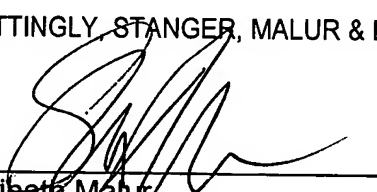
None of these cited references disclose a physical input/output port being accessible by a block I/O request having a first port number and a file I/O request having a second port number. In addition, none of these cited references disclose a control unit that performs a different operation based upon (or corresponding to) different port numbers included in the block or file I/O requests. Finally, these references fail to disclose volumes that are configured specifically for file input/output requests or block input/output requests.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By 
Shrinath Mahur
Reg. No. 34,663
(703) 684-1120